protected by the Central Government nor by the Government of Gujarat; Neither Government has spent any amount on its repairs and protection.

Villages as Attraction for foreign tourists

†3223. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make villages centre of attraction for foreign tourists;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this direction and the number of villages of Gujarat which have been included in the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Tourism, Government of India has identified Vadnagar for development as a model rural tourism project in the State of Gujarat.

(c) Does not arise.

Problems of Tourists

3224. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Tourist pay through their nose to visit India" which appeared in the Economic Times on 18th March, 2002;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the report in order to boost the flow of tourist in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.